



# Rutland Bell-Ringers

## Newsletter

### August 2020

#### Coronavirus (COVID 19) Return to Ringing

There is little change to the current guidelines. The Church of England [published guidance on facemasks](#) which said:

*“We strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.”*

Then Central Council goes on to say that “Although we have not had explicit instruction that this includes bellringers, the Church considers bellringers to fall under ‘volunteers’ and we must therefore assume that facemasks should also be worn for ringing.” It could be argued that they should also be worn for passing through the church to get to the ringing chamber (assuming you don’t have an external tower access).

The Guild expects that towers will continue with their risk assessment to identify risks and introduce actions to mitigate those, where possible. They must also obtain permission from the incumbent before ringing. This process remains unchanged.

**The full guidance on returning to ringing can be found here:**

<https://ccabr.org.uk/coronavirus/>

The general rules are as follows:

- 2m spacing between ringers (which will generally mean alternate bells)
- 1.5m spacing allowable if ropes fall in a straight line (ringers facing inwards not towards each other)
- Adjacent bells can be rung by ringers from the same household.

Items for the next newsletter to Sue Webster  
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***And some news from around the county***

**St Peter & St Paul, PRESTON**

At last the work on our lovely bells has been completed! We have a peal of six bells and were warned some time ago that these were in need of repair and renovation, and that one was indeed in bad shape and should not be rung very often.

It has taken a very long time to decide exactly what we should do, agree the estimates from Taylors of Loughborough, and obtain the necessary Faculties, and raise the money to pay for it all!

In addition to restoring the peal of bells, we realised that we had a very early (1400 approx) Sanctus Bell hanging high up on the wall, which may well not have been used since the Reformation.

This aroused considerable interest, and we decided that we must try to restore this to use as well.

The work started in May and involved dismantling the frames, wheels etc. which were taken back to the Foundry at Loughborough for repair. All bolts, screws etc were inspected. The alarm was raised when a crack was discovered in the beam holding the 3rd bell . This had hitherto not been visible. Water was getting in and the beam was becoming dangerous. It was decided to re-inforce the beam with a new RSJ, but as this involved drilling into the main wall a new Faculty was required. Somehow this was obtained within 48 hours, (surely a record!) and work was not interrupted by this unexpected addition.

Our precious Sanctus bell was returned and installed, and the electronic device by which it is to be rung was tried out.

The team from Taylors, Andrew, Chris and Roy worked extremely hard and were very interesting and knowledgeable about the work. they were doing .

We are so grateful to everybody who helped us to raise the large sum of money needed for all this work, and we must particularly express our thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund who were exceptionally generous. We had hoped to have an Open Day to celebrate the completion and re-hanging of the bells, but of course this is impossible under current regulations.

However, we hope that this will take place some time next year, and that as many Rutland bellringers as possible will be able to try out the bells in the near future.

*Mrs Jane Micklethwaite. Preston*



**St Peter, BROOKE**

After being a victim of lead thieves the roof of Brooke church roof was finally replaced just at the start of lockdown, earlier this year. Richard Beadman is able to confirm it is now watertight.

There is new carpeting in the belfry, so Brooke is ready for when we are finally allowed to start ringing again.

## **DAVID MURCOTT**

### **Retires from bellringing on 31 July 2020**

I write this with some sadness, to report David's retirement from ringing after 60 years. David has been a wonderful friend and local bell-ringer who has helped lead peals/quarter peals or been a respected part of the team for certain major events, weddings and funerals, throughout the Rutland Branch. This, despite also being a member of the Market Harborough Branch in the Leicestershire Diocese. David has also been ever helpful when asked to assist with teaching new ringers in the Rutland Branch, and around many local towers. His attention to detail and quiet encouragement has ensured the pupil always develops excellent handling skills.

David was taught to ring at St. Mary's Collegiate Church, Stafford in 1960. This is a 10 bell tower with a 19 cwt tenor. His first quarter peal was later the same year on 28 November 1960. David was a quick learner. 14 months later he tackled his first peal on 20 January 1962 - Plain Bob Minor, at Colwich church in Staffordshire. 50 years later David arranged an anniversary peal on 20 January 2012. Same church, same method, same date, three ringers from the original peal band ringing their same bells.

David has been a huge supporter and contributor to Rutland Branch. He has been Ringing Master for a 3 year term and an active member of the Peterborough Guild for 34 years (Leicester Guild also for 34 years).

He was elected a member of the Peterborough Cathedral Company for ten years where he was also Assistant Ringing Master at the Cathedral for three of these years where he looked- after practice nights, Sunday afternoon service ringing and arranging quarter peals on the first and third Sundays every month when required.

He tells us his two most special peals were rung at the cathedral. Yorkshire Surprise Maximus and Grandsire Cinques. David has a huge repertoire of methods and is able to conduct with ease putting new "quarter-pealers" back in place quickly and easily so ensuring many young ringers have been able to complete at their first attempt.

David has been tower captain at St. Andrew's church in Great Easton for 36 years. He organised the addition of a sixth bell (treble) in 1997 cast by Whitechapel, and also the rehanging of the bells by Taylors with ball bearings in 1998. Great Easton is a lovely ground floor 6 bell ring and many from Rutland have been invited to join David's well organised Tuesday practice nights where Plain Bob, Stedman and Surprise methods are all rung. Those sitting out need not worry as chairs are always arranged and conversation continues outside the tower, but integral to the practise. David's wife Glenys has always been a happy face at practices, on tour or Branch events (with wonderful tea contributions).

David retired from ringing on 31 July 2020 having enjoyed many years ringing and making many friends in Rutland Branch, Market Harborough District, Peterborough and Leicester Guilds.

On behalf of Rutland Branch I congratulate and thank David and Glenys for all they have done in support of bell-ringing in Rutland and hope although the ropes may have been "hung up on the spider" they will feel welcomed at Branch non ringing and social events, because you will be very welcome.

David, if I might speak personally, thank you for all you have done to support me when Ringing Master, and as Harringworth TC. Whenever I have asked for your help you have always been there. I am sure the same can be said by many others too.

With very best wishes to you both

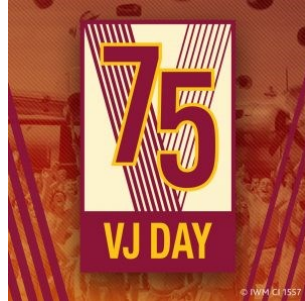
Alan Wordie  
Chairman  
Rutland Branch PDG

CCCBR

<https://cccbr.org.uk/>



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH  
**BELL RINGERS**



### **Ringling for VJ Day 75: 11am Saturday 15th August 2020**

Due to the restrictions in place at the time, we were unable to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe Day in May. However, as some towers are now able to hold restricted ringing in one form or another, ringers may wish to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Japan on 15<sup>th</sup> August to commemorate the final end of the Second World War.

*“Whilst VE Day (Victory in Europe) marked the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, many thousands of Armed Forces personnel were still engaged in bitter fighting in the Far East. Victory over Japan would come at a heavy price, and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) marks the day Japan surrendered on the 15 August 1945, which in effect ended the Second World War.*

*Fighting in the Asia-Pacific took place from Hawaii to North East India. Britain and the Commonwealth’s principle fighting force, the Fourteenth Army, was one of the most diverse in history – more than 40 languages were spoken, and all the world’s major religions represented.” – <https://ve-viday75.gov.uk/viday/>*

The language of bells commemorating significant moments in history is something that we are all familiar with. If it is safe to do so and you have the incumbent’s permission to ring one, or some of your bells to mark this occasion, the suggested time is at 11am on 15<sup>th</sup> August. Please remember to upload your performance to Bellboard so that all ringing for the day can be gathered together.

Vicki Chapman  
CCCBR Public Relations Office

2020/07/19

**And from Helen Allton**  
**PDGCBR Secretary**

**Training slot**

Why not try something new and have a go at handbell ringing? You can do this through Ringing Room so it doesn't matter if you don't have any handbell ringers nearby. This video is a good place to start, it helps you understand the basics before you have a go. If you want to try handbells in Ringing Room please get in touch with us and we can help you get that organised. [https://youtu.be/93\\_0MmAjxo4](https://youtu.be/93_0MmAjxo4)

**Saturday Debate**

This week's Saturday debate is how to cut sandwiches at a ringing tea. We clearly have some classy ladies in the Guild, who prefer to cut into 4 triangles. Join the conversation on the Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/PDGCBR/posts/160313275574071>

**Mental Exercise**

Today's mental exercise is to fit the 23 mythical beasts into the grid provided. As this is related to ringing, they are all method names and have been rung in a peal. Can you work out which one of the method names might be the "odd one out".

Continuing the theme of how well do you know your Guild. This cheeky chappie grew up to be one of your Guild officers; who do you think it is?

**Central Council Updates**

The president is at it again. Blog 14. Guild news this time includes John Beresford, our Guild Steward, stepping forward to provide the Stewardship workgroup with the benefit of his technical expertise. <https://cccbr.org.uk/2020/07/21/presidents-blog-14>

And the results of the June YouTube contest were announced. The winner was Tim Handbell Robot, who, it turns out, is not a robot at all! Shocking!! You can view the winner here: [https://youtu.be/OrlfZroE\\_4k](https://youtu.be/OrlfZroE_4k) and the judges' comments on the entries here: <https://cccbr.org.uk/2020/07/13/most-interesting-unusual-youtube-video-competition-winners-june-2020>

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<https://cccbr.org.uk/youtube-competition/>

## **YouTube Competition**

The Central Council is running a competition for the best YouTube videos of ringing. YouTube has for some time now been a place for sharing videos of ringing. Ringing YouTubers are recording outings, touches, and striking competition entries and sharing them for the world to see. The interest and relevance of these videos is perhaps greater than ever.

To recognise the coming of age of this form of ringing recording, to encourage the discovery and production of high quality online content (there's some pretty ropey stuff so far!), and to have a little bit of focus and fun while we cannot go out and ring, this monthly competition is to uncover the best of these YouTube clips.

What we also want to achieve is to emphasise the point that any ringing found on YouTube should showcase ringing and put it in a good light. Those coming across ringing should be impressed by or interested in what we do rather than have their stereotypes reinforced. Without mentioning any examples lest they attract even more attention, there are some clips online whose removal would be in ringing's best interests.

For the rest of 2020 we will be inviting submissions for the best YouTube video in a series of different categories. The early categories will need to be existing material, but we hope the later categories will give scope for new production, particularly if we can get back in the tower.

## **Contest Schedule**

August	Best video demonstrating change ringing not on tower bell
September	Best showcase of school or university ringing
October	Most effective instructional video (could be handling, maintenance, rope splicing, etc)
November	Film that promotes ringing in the most positive way

At the end of each month, (and after checking suitability, ownership, and permissions as necessary) the entries will be published as a Playlist and subjected to the scrutiny of an independent judge with some interest in the subject in question. The judge will decide which is the best submission.

In December we will launch an online voting poll for the 'People's Choice' taken from the winners of each individual month.

For the competition rules and more information please see the CCCBR website.